1. **What is the AAA Green Car Guide?**

For those in the market to purchase a vehicle, the AAA Green Car Guide is a complete guidebook to green vehicles, including electrics, hybrids, fuel-efficient gas, clean diesel, partial-zero emission, compressed natural gas and hydrogen fuel cell vehicles. The AAA Green Car Guide not only helps define a green car, but also explains the differences between various green vehicles and the pros and cons of each type. The guide also provides real-world evaluations of green cars based on criteria to help potential buyers determine which car is most suitable for their lifestyle. The guide ranks cars from highest to lowest based on a total point score. It has been produced since 2010.

1. **Who produces the AAA Green Car Guide?**

The Automobile Club of Southern California’s Automotive Research Center – the AAA federation’s only dedicated automotive research facility – produces the AAA Green Car Guide. This state-of-the-art automotive test facility is located in Los Angeles, Calif., and performs emissions, fuel economy, performance and many other tests on cars, light trucks and related products. It also tests emerging vehicle technology such as lane assist technology, self-parking features, advanced headlight systems and related automotive technologies. The research center also produces updates on a broad range of key automotive issues.

1. **Why does AAA publish the AAA Green Car Guide?**

While many automakers produce a growing variety of green vehicles, green technology is still relatively new, and the vehicles are evolving from niche to mainstream markets. For many car buyers there are questions about the technology, reliability, safety and fuel savings. The guide is published to help those in the market for a green car or truck who want more information.

A recent AAA member green vehicle survey found that green car issues are important across generations with millennials and non-millennials saying they’d consider buying a green vehicle because of fuel costs and environmental impact. The majority of respondents in the AAA survey also said they are interested in a green vehicle when shopping for a new car and 82% stated it was important to understand green technology.

1. **Who are the evaluators?**

The ARC’s engineers and technicians – who have more than a century of combined automotive experience – evaluate the vehicles.

1. **How are the evaluations done?**

Vehicles were grouped into categories according to size and body type. Then evaluated and scored by the Los Angeles-based Auto Club’s Automotive Research Center in real-world track tests and evaluations (acceleration, handling, ride comfort, turning, etc.).

Tested vehicles were selected based on their drive train (hybrid or plug-in hybrid, battery electric, compressed natural gas, hydrogen, etc.) or because they were a vehicle with EPA category-leading fuel economy. Driving tests were performed at the Auto Club Speedway in Fontana, Calif. and on Southern California roads. Testing procedures were developed by the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE), the EPA and the ARC.

1. **Are all new Green Car models tested each year?**

The ARC staff tracks significant changes to a vehicle’s powertrain to decide whether they should evaluate the latest year of that vehicle. If no significant changes have occurred, the prior model will be included. But the vehicle’s ranking will be recalibrated based on scores of the other cars evaluated.

1. **Where can I download or get a copy of the guide?**

It can be downloaded free of charge on the AAA web site. More information can be found at [www.AAA.com/greencar](http://www.aaa.com/greencar) starting April 19. The guide will be available to AAA members at no charge and to the general public for $8.99 at **select** AAA branches while supplies last.

1. **When did the AAA Green Car Guide begin publishing?**

The guide has been published online and in print for six years.

1. **How many vehicles are included in the AAA Green Car Guide?**

There are 81 vehicles reviewed in the book including 22 new evaluations.

1. **Are Volkswagen and Audi diesel vehicles included in the 2016 edition?**

Volkswagen admitted that the fuel economy and emissions data of the 2015 Volkswagen Golf TDI, 2015 Volkswagen Passat TDI, 2015 Volkswagen Jetta TDI and 2015 Audi A3 were falsified. This admission followed an investigation by state and federal agencies. While this admission does not affect the safety or drivability of their vehicles, they would not have met the guide green eligibility requirements had legitimate and accurate emissions scores been reported. These vehicles are not included in the 2016 edition.

1. **What is AAA?**

As North America’s largest motoring and leisure travel organization, AAA provides more than 56 million members with travel, insurance, financial and automotive-related services. Since its founding in 1902, the not-for-profit, fully tax-paying AAA has been a leader and advocate for the safety and security of all travelers. Motorists can map a route, identify gas prices, find discounts, book a hotel and access AAA roadside assistance with the AAA Mobile app for iPhone, iPad and Android. Learn more at [AAA.com/mobile](http://www.aaa.com/mobile). AAA clubs can be visited on the Internet at [AAA.com](http://www.AAA.com).

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